

**To:** Sanchez, Gabriel (NBCUniversal)[gabriel.sanchez@nbcuni.com]  
**Cc:** Smith, Paula[Smith.Paula@epa.gov]  
**From:** Gray, David  
**Sent:** Sat 8/8/2015 9:57:50 PM  
**Subject:** RE: US EPA Region 6 News Release: Gold King Mine Release

Hi Gabriel,

I don't know the answer. The contractor worked for our region 8 Denver office. I am in Dallas. New Mexico is in my region but not Colorado.

Let me copy Paula Smith. She is my counterpart in the Denver office.

David

**From:** Sanchez, Gabriel (NBCUniversal) [mailto:gabriel.sanchez@nbcuni.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 08, 2015 4:56 PM  
**To:** Gray, David  
**Subject:** RE: US EPA Region 6 News Release: Gold King Mine Release

Thanks again David. Can you please tell me who the contracting company was that was working under the EPA at the mine please? Steve on the call did not know and this since this is your region I hope you have that information. Thank you.

**From:** Gray, David [mailto:gray.david@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 08, 2015 12:11 PM  
**To:** Sanchez, Gabriel (NBCUniversal)

**Subject:** RE: US EPA Region 6 News Release: Gold King Mine Release

I understand that it has reached Aztec and is working its way towards Farmington. I will see if I can get an update.

**From:** Sanchez, Gabriel (NBCUniversal) [<mailto:gabriel.sanchez@nbcuni.com>]

**Sent:** Saturday, August 08, 2015 1:13 PM

**To:** Gray, David

**Subject:** RE: US EPA Region 6 News Release: Gold King Mine Release

Thank you so much Mr. Gray.

Do you know how far the mine water waste has traveled so far? Thank you again.

**From:** Gray, David [<mailto:gray.david@epa.gov>]

**Sent:** Saturday, August 08, 2015 10:08 AM

**To:** Sanchez, Gabriel (NBCUniversal)

**Subject:** US EPA Region 6 News Release: Gold King Mine Release

Gabriel – We are also having a media conference call at 3 pm today. The dial in is 1.866.299.3188 and code: [REDACTED] Nonresponsive Conference Code David

### **Gold King Mine Release – New Mexico Response Activities**

Contact: David Gray at 214-665-8120 or [r6press@epa.gov](mailto:r6press@epa.gov)

**DALLAS** – (August 8, 2015) EPA Region 6 deployed a federal on-scene coordinator from its emergency response team and scientific technicians under contract to EPA to assist the state in preparations for the potential impacts from the Gold King Mine release in Colorado.

The initial EPA team arrived on-site late in the evening on August 6 and immediately on August 7 began to assisting the state. The team began collecting samples at the drinking water intakes for Farmington and Aztec to help New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) establish baseline conditions in the river. Additional EPA personnel arrived in New Mexico later in the day on August 7. They immediately began assisting with sampling preparations as the state prepares drinking water systems to return to

operations after the release passes downstream. The EPA will dedicate the personnel and scientific assets to assure that the community has the required assistance.

EPA will participate in an information meeting at the Farmington Civic Center exhibit hall at noon today, August 8.

EPA will also host a media conference call at 3 pm MT today, August 8. Reporters should contact David Gray at [gray.david@epa.gov](mailto:gray.david@epa.gov) for more information.

EPA Region 6 is working closely with the NMED to evaluate possible impacts in New Mexico. EPA is providing technical and laboratory assistance. Potentially impacted water systems have been notified by State officials and precautions are in place to ensure drinking water in homes is protected. Each of the five drinking water systems in New Mexico are able to prepare and store drinking water in preparation for shutting down water intakes from the river. NMED is providing direct assistance to community water systems. Both NMED and EPA are closely monitoring the situation in New Mexico.

On August 5, 2015, EPA Region 8, based in Denver, Colorado, was conducting an investigation of the Gold King Mine. The intent of the investigation was to assess the on-going water releases from the mine and to treat mine water and to assess the feasibility of further mine remediation. The plan was to excavate the loose material that had collapsed into the cave entry back to the timbering. During the excavation, the loose material gave way, opening the adit (mine tunnel) and spilling the water stored behind the collapsed material into Cement Creek, a tributary of the Animas River.

The adit is still discharging lower flows into Cement Creek. EPA is rebuilding settling ponds to treat these flows – the upper pond was completed yesterday, and the lower pond by early today. EPA will treat the mine water diverted to the ponds with caustic soda and flocculent once the ponds are built.

EPA Region 8 has been coordinating with Region 6 and Region 9 and the states of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Southern Ute Tribe and Navajo Nation.

For the latest information, photos, and the data when available, visit [www.epa.gov/region6](http://www.epa.gov/region6) .

If you would rather not receive future communications from Environmental Protection Agency, let us know by clicking [here](#).  
Environmental Protection Agency, Fountain Place 12th Floor, Suite 1200 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, TX 75202-2733 United States